



U.S. Forest Service
Six Rivers National Forest
1330 Bayshore Way
Eureka, CA 95501
Voice: 707.442.1721
www.fs.usda.gov/srnf

News Release

Media Contacts: Bridget Litten, 707.441.3673
Peggi Lawrence, 707.441.3595



Scoping period begins for forest aquatic restoration project

EUREKA, California, July 7, 2015 – Six Rivers National Forest Supervisor Merv George Jr. announced that the forest initiated the 30-day scoping period for the *Six Rivers Aquatic Restoration Environmental Assessment* (EA), on July 2, 2015. “Scoping” gives the public an opportunity to share with the agency the issues and concerns they think should be addressed in the EA before it is written.

“Last winter, we held a series of pre-NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) public meetings to get everyone’s ideas on what aquatic restoration should look like on the forest,” said George. He added, “With your feedback from these meetings, we’re now ready to move into the formal NEPA process.”

The proposed action includes instream and riparian restoration activities that enhance habitat conditions for aquatic species. Proposed restoration activities include, but are not limited to:

- Adding large, woody debris to provide cover for juvenile coho salmon;
- Developing side-channel areas for winter rearing and riparian treatments to encourage species diversity;
- Manual restoration activities in wilderness areas associated with identified fish bearing streams;
- Restoration activities for non-anadromous fish and other aquatic species found in natural ponds, lakes and in support of warm water fisheries, such as Ruth Reservoir; and
- Restoration and cleanup of illegal marijuana grow operations that may be impacting the quantity and quality of water, as well as aquatic species and their associated habitat.

A full description of proposed activities may be found online at www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=42051.*

-more-

This project, a milestone for adaptive management restoration, will be in alignment with state and federal recovery plans to improve instream habitat for coho salmon, as well as beneficial to all salmon, trout and other aquatic species.

Because national forests and grasslands are the largest single source of fresh water in the continental United States, an active approach to restoring watershed conditions, protecting communities and their drinking water, and sustaining aquatic wildlife and their habitat, is crucial.

“We need to take an active ‘all hands, all lands’ approach to restoring our fisheries habitat,” said George. He added, “Actively managing the land is going to take all of us, but it’s a great time to be involved. There are opportunities out there for us to build partnerships with our communities, as well as to fund projects on public or private lands that benefit watershed resources.”

Everyone is encouraged to provide comments by August 3, 2015. Comments may be (1) mailed or hand-delivered (office hours 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays) to Six Rivers National Forest, Attn: Carolyn Cook, 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka, CA 95501; (2) faxed to 707.442.9242; or (3) emailed to cacook@fs.fed.us with a subject line of *Six Rivers National Forest Aquatic Restoration Project*.

For additional information, contact project lead Carolyn Cook at 707.441.3551 or cacook@fs.fed.us.

#

***If the documents at www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=42051 are unavailable, please contact project lead Carolyn Cook at 707.441.3551 or cacook@fs.fed.us.**

For more information about the Six Rivers National Forest, visit us at www.fs.usda.gov/srnf, “like” us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/USFSSixRiversNF, or “follow” us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/SixRiversNF.

The mission of the U.S. Forest Service, part U.S. Department of Agriculture, is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation’s clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.